Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, CZ, CSCE, PINT, PINS, SHUM, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN COMMUNISTS DENOUNCE CZECH EVENTS

1. THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST DAILY, L'UNITA, IN ITS JANUARY
13 EDITION CARRIES ON ITS FRONT PAGE A LENGTHY AND STERN
DENUNCIATION OF CURRENT EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE
DECLARATION IS SIGNED BY SIX COMMUNIST UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS:
NICOLA BADALONI, PISA; BIAGIO DE GIOVANNI, ROME; LUCIO
LOMBARDO RADICE, ROME; CESARE LUPORINI, FLORENCE; CARLO
SMURAGLIA; MILAN; AND ROSARIO VILLARI, FLORENCE. LOMBARDO
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RADICE IS A MEMBER OF THE PCI CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

2. THE DECLARATION STATES, INTER ALIA: "THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN SITUATION....WHICH EMERGES FROM THE 'CHARTA 77' DECLARATION... AROUSES CONCERN AND ALARM IN US SINCE WE ARE COMMUNISTS. WE INTELLECTICAL MILITANTS IN THE PCI REGARD WITH GRAVE CONCERN THE

CONSTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON THE EXERCISE OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, THE IMPEDIMENTS TO THE FREEDOM OF RESEARCH. ... WE REMAIN CONVINCED THAT THE CURRENT SITUATIONIIN CZECHOSLOVAKIA ORIGINATES WITH AND IS DETERMINED BY THE EXTERNAL MILITARY INTERVENTION OF 1968, AND THE TRAUMA WHICH IT PROVOKED. ... WE DENOUNCE THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS AND RENEW OUR CALL UPON THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN GOVERNMENT AND ON THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE COUNTRIES WHICH IN 1968 CHOSE THE ROAD OF INTERVENTION TO BRING THESE THINGS TO A HALT..."

- 3. COMMENT. LOMBARDO RADICE HAS PROTESTED CZECH DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PAST, BUT NEVER BEFORE ON THE FRONT PAGE OF L'UNITA. THIS SUGGESTS THAT THE CURRENT PROTEST HAS THE APPROVAL OF THE PCI LEADERSHIP. CRITICISM OF COMMUNIST POLICIES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS LONG SINCE BECOME A LITMUS OF THE PCI'S CLAIM TO INDEPENDENCE FROM MOSCOW'S CONTROL. END COMMENT.
- 4. SOCIALIST PARTY CRAXI HAS ALSO VOICED A STRONG DENUNCIATION OF THE CZECH SITUATION ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE PSI DAILY AVANTI. HE DRAWS THE CONCLUSION THAT "NOTWITHSTANDING THE OCCUPATION OF THE COUNTRY, THE PURGES AND THE REPRESSIONS, THE SPIRIT OF "SOCIALISM WITH A HUMANE ASPECT IS STILL ALIVE, AND THAT THE CZECHS WANT TO EXERCISE THE RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT." SEVERAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS ARE ALSO PREPARING DECLARATIONS OF CONCERN. VOLPE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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